Along Azalea Row

By RUTH B. SMITH

Merry Christmas! May I be the first to extend the season's greetings. Had I waited until after Hallowe'en, every merchant in town might have beaten me — you know how eager they all are to display their wonderful toys and gifts early?

But I am really not the first at all. Two weeks ago, Mrs. Clifford Lindskoug, who originated the plan, accompanied by Mrs. Raveks, went to every home from the Winchuck river to the northernmost border of Brookings along the highway with a wonderful Christmas idea. They suggested that each decorate his home for Christmas in some fashion that neighbors and passersby could also enjoy its beauty. The response was heart-warming and it means our town will put on new garb this Christmas.

To talk to our chairman makes everyone eager to cooperate and it is none too early to be thinking what we shall do. The local stores will stock the outdoor strings of lights, flood-lights and spot lights, if they can have some idea of how many will be needed. It isn't just the highway that we want to radiate Christmas cheer but the homes everywhere. There is no happier evening activity for the children — we're all that, at Christmas — than a tour to see the lights of Christmas.

Your decorating need not be expensive, Mrs. Lindskoug says. Huge candles made of stove-pipe or from the rolls for carpeting or linoleum can be wrapped in bright paper with a light globe for the flame and placed on either side of the front door. Monday's Oregonian showed a Crafts pattern of Santa and his reindeer available through that paper and the incoming magazines from now on will be full of ideas adaptable to your own planning.

One can do many things with a string of out-door lights, besides the usual lighted Christmas tree. The gables or eaves of your house can be outlined effectively; lights under the eaves of your porch with a spot on your decorated door is always effective. A string of out-door wiring is best for safety and the original investment will pay dividends from year to year.

The use of flood or spot lights enhances the appearance of whatever you undertake, though the flood light will cover twice the spread of the spotlight. Colored caps can be purchased to give any desired color and the cross light from two or more will give a diffused light of entirely different hue. Experiment a bit with the color effects. A flood light placed at the base of a tree, large or small, and focused into it gives a wonderfully eerie effect. Or one can place a flood light in front of one of the cut-outs of deer or Santa and cast its huge shadow on the garage door or the plain wall of the house.

When one is hanging festoons of lights in the same place each year, they should be hung from permanent hooks and the cord should be taped so it does not rub against the hooks. These need to be placed close together in order that the festoons do not strike the wall in the wind. A good festoon must have a focal point and the size of the loops decrease as the festoon nears that point.

Should one wish a large star against the chimney, fasten it by a wooden strap and focus a spot light upon it. A star may be lighted, too, by boring holes around the edge and inserting light globes. Try setting a smaller star in front of a large one and place a light between; or bore a hole in the center and put in a short bulb with the top painted black.

These are but a few of the suggestions offered by Mrs. Lindskoug but enough to start us thinking. No business house has yet been solicited but we count on their cooperation and their originality also. Our community tree, with its gifts, will add just the final touch, expressing the true spirit which lies behind our Christmas project — brotherly love and the celebration of Christ's birthday embracing the world-wide longing for "PEACE ON EARTH".

Poor Seed Crop For Douglas Fir

Not since 1949 have the Pacific Northwest Douglas fir forests produced a good crop of seed Artificial reforestation in Washington and Oregon is threatened with a temporary decrease in its rapid momentum of the last decade. A drop in the usually prolific natural regeneration of this species is expected for a year or two.

Foresters in need of five tons of Douglas fir seed a year for use in northwest nurseries and for direct seeding from helicopter, find their cupboards are bare, said W. D. Hagenstein, Industrial Forestry Association chief forester.

"We generally get a good seed year in fir," Hagenstein stated, about three times in ten years. Hemlock and cedar are much more regular seed producers, for they produce good seed crops eight out of every ten years."

During light seed years like 1953, the forest leader said, the output of seed is just barely enough to feed the rodents and insects and little if any is left to produce new trees. Result is that natural regeneration is less than average during such years.

Hagenstein observed that rodents especially savor the relatively large—40,000 to a pound—Douglas fir seeds. Hemlock and cedar seeds are only about a tenth as large, requiring from 300,000 to 400,000 to make a pound.

Foresters store seed during good years, he pointed out, but the poor seed crops for several years in a row has nearly exhausted seed reserves. "What the Douglas fir region needs most," Hagenstein said, "is a bumper seed crop in 1954."

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